



Delivering local determinations and setting sanctions

Exercise 1 (part 1)

You are a member of your authority's standards committee. You have received the following report on the agenda of your hearings sub-committee from your monitoring officer which summarises the investigation report into an allegation that Cllr Matey voted on an item of business in which he had a prejudicial interest.



Purpose of report – to consider the outcome of an investigation into an alleged breach of the member Code of Conduct by Cllr Matey.

Cllr Matey has been on the council for 25 years. He was most recently re-elected in 2008. He signed up to the Code of Conduct on 9 May 2008. He received training about the provisions of the Code on 10 June 2008.

The complainant alleged that Cllr Matey spoke and voted at the executive's transport and environment sub-committee meeting on 25 June 2008 on the issue of which of two routes a bypass should take around the village of Pallhey. Cllr Matey was alleged to have had a prejudicial interest in the decision because of his friendship with the owner of a local bakery business, Mr Bunn, which would need to be demolished to make way for one of the routes.

Cllr Matey voted in favour of the route that did not affect Mr Bunn's business. The investigating officer has found no evidence of any friendship or close association between Cllr Matey and Mr Bunn. Therefore the investigating officer has concluded that this complaint is ill-founded and that there has been no failure by Cllr Matey to abide by the member code of conduct.

Recommendation:

That the finding of the investigating officer be considered and the sub-committee make one of the findings required under regulation 17(1) of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.



What decision would you make and who would you notify of it?